

Appl. No.: 10/611,833
TC/A.U.: 3711 Docket No.: B03-13
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7-9, 16-21, 31, 34-47, and new claims 48-70 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 31 and 34-47 are allowed, and for pointing out that claim 3-7, 11-13, 15, 17-19, and 22-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4, 7, and 18 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8, 9, 16, 17, and 19-21 have been amended in their dependence.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-15, 22-30, and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants' right to file continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed.

New claims 48-70 have been added. No new matter has been added by these amendments and additions.

Rejection Over U.S. Patent No. 5,820,488

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,820,488 to Sullivan *et al.* ("Sullivan"). Claim 33 has been cancelled, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection Over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0148826

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 14, 16, 20, 21, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0148826 to Ohama *et al.* ("Ohama"). Claims 1, 2, 10, 14, and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 8, 9, 16, 20, and 21 have been amended to depend now from claim 4 which, now in independent form as amended herein, is believed to be in conditions for allowance. As such, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is believed to have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicants' agent/attorney

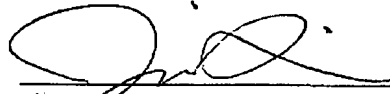
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would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the agent/attorney at the number below.

A fee of \$650.00 for the re-written independent claims and added new claim in this submission is believed to have been charged to Applicants' deposit account upon the submission of last response dated February 24, 2005. However, should any other fees be due, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

03-21-2005
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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